

Whole Owl
Pellet



Broken-
apart Pellet



Skull



Rib



Fur



Leg bone



Jaw bone



Owls don't have teeth. So what's a hungry bird to do with the tasty mouse it just caught? Swallow it whole. As the unlucky rodent passes through the owl's gut, the mouse's soft meaty parts are digested. Hard parts, such as teeth, bones and fur, get stuck in the owl's stomach and form a pellet. How do owls get rid of these undigestible leftovers? They barf! Although gross, puked-out pellets provide a snapshot of an owl's past meal.